Third Sunday in Advent

Pastor's Welcome

10:45 - Choir: What Hope! An Eden Prophesied (Jonathan Kohrs)

Confession and Absolution

Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding

1 Hark! A thrilling voice is sounding! “Christ is near,” we hear it say.
2 Star-tled at the solemn warning, Let the earth-bound soul arise.
3 See, the Lamb, so long expected, Comes with pardon down from heav’n.
4 So, when next He comes in glory And the world is wrapped in fear, He will shield us
5 Hon-or, glo-ry, might, do-min-ion To the Father and the Son With the ev-er-wor-kings of dark-ness, All you children of the day!”

Text and tune: Public domain

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

P In the name of the Father and of the +S+ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,
C who made heaven and earth.

P If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?
C But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.
Since we are gathered to hear God’s Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.

Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ††† Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Service of the Word

Introit

Show us your steadfast love, | O L ORD,*
   and grant us your sal- | vation.

Let me hear what God the | L ORD will speak,*
   for he will speak peace to his people, to his saints; but let them not turn back to | folly.
Surely his salvation is near to those who | fear him,*
   that glory may dwell | in our land.
Yes, the L ORD will give | what is good,*
   and our land will yield its | increase.
Righteousness will go be- | fore him*
   and make his foot- | steps a way.
Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*
   and to the Holy | Spirit;
as it was in the be- | ginning,*
   is now, and will be forever. | Amen.

Show us your steadfast love, | O L ORD,*
   and grant us your sal- | vation.
Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.
C And also with you.
P Let us pray.
   Lord Jesus Christ, we implore You to hear our prayers and to lighten the darkness of our hearts by Your gracious visitation; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
C Amen.

Sit

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 61:1–4, 8–11

1The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me,
   because the LORD has anointed me
to bring good news to the poor;
   he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives,
   and the opening of the prison to those who are bound;
2to proclaim the year of the LORD’s favor,
   and the day of vengeance of our God;
to comfort all who mourn;
3to grant to those who mourn in Zion—
   to give them a beautiful headdress instead of ashes,
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,
   the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit;
that they may be called oaks of righteousness,
   the planting of the LORD, that he may be glorified.
4They shall build up the ancient ruins;
   they shall raise up the former devastations;
they shall repair the ruined cities,
   the devastations of many generations.

8For I the LORD love justice;
   I hate robbery and wrong;
I will faithfully give them their recompense,
   and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.
9 Their offspring shall be known among the nations,
and their descendants in the midst of the peoples;
all who see them shall acknowledge them,
that they are an offspring the Lord has blessed.

10 I will greatly rejoice in the Lord;
my soul shall exult in my God,
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation;
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,
as a bridegroom decks himself like a priest with a beautiful headdress,
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

11 For as the earth brings forth its sprouts,
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to sprout up,
so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise
to sprout up before all the nations.

A: This is the Word of the Lord.
C: Thanks be to God.

5:00 PM - THE PSALM OF THE DAY
Psalm 126
Refrain

A: When the Lord brought back the captives of Zion we were filled with dreaming.
Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with rejoicing.

C: refrain

A: Then they said among the nations, “The Lord has done great things for them.”
The Lord has done great things for us; we are glad indeed.

C: refrain

A: Restore our fortunes, O Lord, like the torrents in the southern desert.
Those that sow in tears shall reap rejoicing.

C: refrain
Epistle  

1 Thessalonians 5:16–24

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise prophecies, but test everything; hold fast what is good. Abstain from every form of evil. Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Alleluia and Verse

Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way before you.

A

C Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

C Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.
The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the first chapter.

Glory to You, O Lord.

6There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. 7He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. 8He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

19This is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, “Who are you?” 20He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, “I am not the Christ.” 21And they asked him, “What then? Are you Elijah?” He said, “I am not.” “Are you the Prophet?” And he answered, “No.” 22So they said to him, “Who are you? We need to give an answer to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?” 23He said, “I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, ‘Make straight the way of the Lord,’ as the prophet Isaiah said.”

24(Now they had been sent from the Pharisees.) 25They asked him, “Then why are you baptizing, if you are neither the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?” 26John answered them, “I baptize with water, but among you stands one you do not know, 27even he who comes after me, the strap of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie.” 28These things took place in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ.
Nicene Creed

I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
    and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
    and ascended into heaven
    and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life \textsuperscript{\textcopyright} of the world to come. Amen.
The Third Petition of Lord’s Prayer (& explanation from Luther’s Small Catechism)

Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

What does this mean?
The good and gracious will of God is done even without our prayer, but we pray in this petition that it may be done among us also.

How is God’s will done?
God’s will is done when He breaks and hinders every evil plan and purpose of the devil, the world, and our sinful nature, which do not want us to hallow God’s name or let His kingdom come; and when He strengthens and keeps us firm in His Word and faith until we die. This is His good and gracious will.

Sit

When All the World Was Cursed

1 When all the world was cursed
By Moses’ condemnation,
When All the World Was Cursed

LSB 346

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Prayer of the Church

Lord, in Your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Service of the Sacrament

Preface

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, for the countless blessings You so freely bestow on us and all creation. Above all, we give thanks for Your boundless love shown to us when You sent Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, into our flesh and laid on Him our sin, giving Him into death that we might not die eternally. Because He is now risen from the dead and lives and reigns to all eternity, all who believe in Him will overcome sin and death and will rise again to new life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:
Prayer of Thanksgiving

P  Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. In Your boundless mercy You sent Your servant, John the Baptist, to proclaim that in Christ the kingdom of heaven draws near. With thankful hearts we pray, “Come, Lord Jesus,” confident that in His body and blood, given us to eat and drink, we receive the forgiveness of sins and so proclaim His death until He comes again in glory. Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

Lord’s Prayer

C  Our Father who art in heaven,
    hallowed be Thy name,
    Thy kingdom come,
    Thy will be done on earth
    as it is in heaven;
    give us this day our daily bread;
    and forgive us our trespasses
    as we forgive those
    who trespass against us;
    and lead us not into temptation,
    but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom
and the power and the glory
forever and ever. Amen.
The Words of Our Lord

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: “Take, eat; this is My body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me.”

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: “Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

Pax Domini

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Amen.

Agnus Dei

LSB 210

O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,
You take the sin of the world away;
O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,
Have mercy on us, Jesus Christ,
Have mercy on us, Lord, we pray.
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

Sit
Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

1 Let all mortal flesh keep silence And with fear and trembling stand;
2 King of kings yet born of Mary, As of old on earth He stood, Lord of lords in human vesture,
3 Rank on rank the host of heaven Spreads its van-guard on the way As the Light of Light, descending sleepless eye, Veil their faces to the presence
4 At His feet the six-winged seraph, Cherubim with for with blessing in His hand Christ our God to earth descend

For with blessing in His hand Christ our God to earth descend.
In the body and the blood, He will give to all the realms of endless day, Comes the pow’rs of hell to faith-ful His own self for heav’n-ly food.
From the realms of endless day, Comes the pow’rs of hell to faith-ful His own self for heav’n-ly food.
As with cease-less voice they cry: “Al- le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia! As the dark-ness clears a-way.
As with cease-less voice they cry: “Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia, Lord Most High!”

Text and tune: Public domain
Thanks to Thee, O Christ, Victorious

1 Thanks to Thee, O Christ, victorious! Thanks to Thee, O
2 Thou hast died for my transgression, All my sins on
3 For the joy Thine advent gave me, For Thy holy,

Lord of Life! Death hath now no power o’er us,
Thee were laid; Thou hast won for me salvation,
precious Word; For Thy Baptism, which doth save me,

Thou hast conquered in the strife. Thanks because Thou didst a-
On the cross my debt was paid. From the grave I shall a-
For Thy blest Communion board; For Thy death, the bitter

rise And hast opened paradise! None can fully
rise And shall meet Thee in the skies. Death itself is
scorn, For Thy resurrection morn, Lord, I thank Thee

come

sing the glory Of the resurrection story.
and exalt Thee, And in heav’n I shall behold Thee.

come

Stand
Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.
Benedicamus

**A** Let us bless the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

Benediction

**P** The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

**C** Amen.

Once He Came in Blessing

1 Once He came in blessing, All our sins resting;
2 Now He gently leads us; With Himself He meets us;
3 Soon will come that hour When with mighty power He feeds us Precious food from heaven;
4 Come, then, O Lord Jesus, From our sins rescuing;

Son of God most holy; Bore the cross to save us; Hope and freedom gave us.
Pledge of peace here given, Manna that will nourish Souls that they may flourish.
And will judgment render, With the faithful sharing Joy beyond comparison.
That we, grace receiving, Ever may confess You Till in heav’n we bless You.

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Divine Service, Setting Four from Lutheran Service Book

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